

Arizona's 2008 Adolescent Substance Abuse Conference

Confronting Social Barriers in Adolescence

Conference Speaker Information



Sharon L. Smith

Sharon L. Smith is founder and president of MOMSTELL, a parent advocacy organization founded in 2001 to support parents with children suffering from the disease of addiction. Ms. Smith launched the MOMSTELL website in order to expand the mission to join concerned parents and families to work together towards improving drug Treatment, Education, Legislation, Policy and Prevention.

In addition to MOMSTELL, Sharon has been appointed to serve on Pennsylvania's Children's Advisory Committee, Behavioral Health Task Force and the Student Assistant Advisory Council. Ms. Smith is involved in various workgroups including Children's Integrated Service Plan, Forensics, School-Based Behavioral Health and the Centers of Excellence for the Pennsylvania Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse and has worked on many drug and alcohol policy issues, state budgets, and legislation for and state budget issues for Pa as well as several legislative. Sharon is also co-chair of the treatment accessibility subcommittee and servers on the statewide Drug and Alcohol Coalition and the Cumberland County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition. She created an independent statewide Family Advisory Board, "Families of Addiction" to address substance abuse issues from prevention, early intervention, treatment and recovery as well as a Parent Panel Advisory Council under the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol.

On a national level, Ms. Smith has spoken at National Press Conferences and presented for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency in Washington, D.C. Sharon was instrumental in the "Addiction is not Fashionable Campaign" which fought against an advertising campaign for Christian Dior's "Addict," line. Her advocacy was a key factor in the company's decision to modify its advertising campaign. Ms. Smith does legislative and advocacy trainings throughout Pennsylvania, and has presented at several state and national conferences. Sharon serves on the Parent Advisory Board for the Partnership for a Drug Free America, is a consultant on family substance abuse issues for the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment and part of the grant management team for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration in Washington DC.